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they will yet attempt such task, we will not conjecture. We predict, if they do, the course adopted will not be the publication of papers and documents, with dates, names, names of parties, purchasers, agents, &c., and simple facts; but the public will be entertained with a farrago of signiorale about his excellent reputation for virtue, and explanations of motives, and coarse denunciation of those who pre-tended to direct public attention to the subject. We shall see. Any sort of defence, sent to the *Herald* by the Secretary, will be published, even if he denounces us as guilty of all kinds of wickedness for questioning the propriety of his continuance in the cabinet with these claims on his conscience.

The confessions of the advocates of Mr. Corwin have placed on record for future reference and comment at the next session. It may, perhaps, be useful for a committee of the House of Representatives, to inquire how, and when, and where, and from whom, his facts were derived. We shall be ready to respond to such queries, and to exhibit the public documents, and also the admissions and concessions in the organs containing our sources of information.

**THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.—THE BASIS QUESTION.**—For some time past, the only question before the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, has been that of representation on the basis of the white population. It will be remembered that the business of the convention was thought nearly completed, when some difficulty arose with regard to the representation in the State Legislature. It was then determined to adjourn until the census returns were completed, which would aid in fixing upon the proper basis. The returns were received; and upon the assembling of the convention it was discovered that the Western division of the State had the largest white population. This at once brought the East to the fact that if a white basis was adopted, the West would have the control of the Legislature; and as a free-soil spirit is known to prevail to a certain extent in that section, the Eastern members determined to hold on to the old basis, which would still give them the power. For nearly three months the two sections have been battling against each other for the ascendancy. Whole weeks were spent in debate, without any prospect of a conclusion being arrived at. Hon. Henry A. Wise, though living in one of the largest slave districts of the State, joined the Western members in favor of the white basis, and delivered a speech of four days' length. One or two nights have occurred on the floor of the convention, and several deaths have been spoken of. Several measures of compromise have been brought forward, all of which tended to the compromising of a portion of the slaves, or the whole free negro population. All of these failed; but it seemed impossible to come to a vote direct upon the question, and was not until the 20th of April that a vote was taken. On that day a proposition to strike out the white basis from the bill prevailed by a vote of fifty-five to fifty-six—Mr. Wise and three other Western members voting with those of the negative, and Messrs. John V. Mason and John M. Botts voting with those of the affirmative. The vote, it would appear, settled the question that the State shall not be represented in its councils upon a basis of the white population; but it left the question as unsettled as before the vote was taken. The question will now be, whether the State will be represented upon a basis of the whole population, or upon the white and free black population.

Numerous propositions of compromise have since been made, but without a prospect of arriving at any definite result. The question now before the convention is to divide the representation of the Legislature equally between the Eastern and Western divisions of the State, thereby giving to each a check over the other. But with this proposition is another, for the call of another convention after the making of the census in 1860, with the view to re-representation the representation. This proposition will, doubtless, destroy that which provides for the equal distribution of the representatives, as the Western division of the State increases in population to a greater ratio than the Eastern division, and will consequently gain the ascendancy in the next convention, and have the subsequent control of the affairs of the State. The convention is now just about where it started, and from present indications, just about where it will remain.

The West seek to gain the ascendancy, with the view to carry out certain works of internal improvement, which it deems necessary to develop the resources of that portion of the State, and which must be dormant; while the East, devoted only to agriculture, holds the power in its own hands. The convention was brought about by the efforts of the members of the Legislature from the Western division; but there seems now little prospect of their being able to profit by its proceedings, or of their section of the State being advanced.

**GOING TO EUROPE.**—The Arctic steamer, for Liverpool, to-day, will take out about one hundred and fifty passengers, and we are reminded by this fact, that since the American line of steamers was commenced, and California gold has poured in upon us, the number of passengers has been doubled, and that the business and profits of the company are rapidly increasing. Among the passengers who leave to-day, are several distinguished persons. The Rev. J. W. Alexander is a very young man whose talents have commanded for him very great distinction in this city. Mr. D. D. Field is one of the contractors of our new State roads, which has made an organic change in the principles and practices of the law courts, and has produced vast amount of trouble and confusion, because it swept down the old and reliable boundaries of our courts, without erecting anything tangible or certain in their places. This code has been foolishly named that of Justinian, but it is more like that which would appear if we should tear down the great City of Italy, and piling up the materials in a heap, as it is seen before the site of demolished houses on Broadway, we should call the unsightly masses the Parthenon. Mr. Eaton Stone and his wife also take their leave of the city in the Arctic. Mr. Eaton Stone is a great equesman, and he can leap a horse with even more success than Mr. Field. He is as great in the Olympic arena as Mr. Field is in that of the law. Mr. Martin Parquette Tupper is another passenger. He has made a tour, for the last three months, through the principal interesting portions of the country, and has gained great favor with the intelligent and educated people everywhere, who have long admired his talent, and whose "Proverbial Philosophy" is a household word. Mr. E. Cabot, of the Boston Community, and also, is also a passenger. On the whole, we are now sending out some very excellent specimens of our own population, and of intelligent European tourists.

**THE WORLD'S FAIR CORRESPONDENT.**—The latter writers connected with the press, who have been thrown into London by the grand exhibition designed and completed under the genius of Prince Albert, are beginning to give specimens of their talents and taste, industry and imbecility, philosophy and fustian, as correspondents. Two of those who have most attracted our attention, and that of the public, are Horace Greeley, of whom much was expected, and Moses S. Beach, of whom nothing was anticipated. We have read what they have written, and so have many others, and we and the public have decided that Horace Greeley's letters are about as useful as anything of the kind can be. The philosopher of oddities and kinks knows nothing of London, and what little information he imparts is taken out of the shilling guide-books. The letters of young Beach are more interesting, and plainly describe things as they are, in many cases being original, graphic, and sensible, as well as they go. Young Beach's father was a skillful banker and financier, and we should think the father superior to his son as a letter writer, and he is superior to him, as far as common sense goes, in opposition to Fourierism, and every other lam and oddity.

**THE HAMBURG DRAMATIC FESTIVAL, AND THE NATIONAL DRAMA.**—We see it announced that an executive committee are now engaged in devising ways and means to make the Hamburg Dramatic Festival successful. Their first step is not one that gives such promise. It is such a one as will give the committee a great deal of trouble in finding volunteer talent, as well as one calculated to interrupt the regular business of the dramatic establishments of the metropolis. Besides, neither the drama nor those who are members of it will receive one jot of interest or importance from a festival managed in the usual way. Something better is demanded by the public—something, that while it will relieve Mr. Hamblin's property from the perils it is now in, will have a beneficial influence upon the theatrical profession, and will create some little nucleus for the growth of a national drama worthy of a great republican country. Hitherto, not without some reason, there has been a marked preponderance of English feeling and management in everything pertaining to the drama, and it is quite time that this preponderance should disappear, and that no classish spirit should elevate one class at the expense of another. We would have this festival a national one, in the broadest, most comprehensive and best sense of the term, and American, just so far as the recognition of an American national drama is requisite—with no peace in it that will plainly, distinctly say, that there is a large and increasing portion of our citizens who have a deep interest in the productions of American minds, and in the talent born and nurtured on American soil. This may be done, as it should be, without any invidious distinctions, while every member of the dramatic profession in the city may have an opportunity in some way—though not in the place to which his ordinary ambition aspires—to be identified with the festival, the first of its kind in this country, and which, if sensibly rewarded once a year, would create a fund for decayed artists, that would prove exceedingly advantageous, at the same time that it would exhibit on the part of the profession a pride in their miserably neglected institution.

Mr. Hamblin, as a manager for twenty-five years, has established a character in his profession which gives him a position very different from that occupied by those mere speculators in the drama who bend souls, bodies, economies, elephants, and all sorts of animal and even vegetable economy, to their systems of management. It is quite fitting and proper, therefore, if a compliment is to be given to him which is worthy of his acceptance, that the executive committee should know precisely what they are about, and not narrow their limits, so as to create hard work for themselves and all concerned in the business. We do not take retrospective steps out of doors in any business of this kind, and probably never shall; but we are quite awake to the demands of such an occasion, and shall briefly suggest what we deem to be a plan for a great dramatic festival, such as we have proposed.

Let Castle Garden be secured for two days, and let then let the theatres of the metropolis permit each company to perform two or three hours of those two days in the occupancy of sterling plays. On the evening of the first day, after two or three of the theatres have displayed the character of their resources, let us have one broad, general, comprehensive symbol, that such things exist as American dramas, and American actors and actresses. Let some American play be selected for performance, in which the talents of Charlotte Cushman, Julia Dean, Mrs. Wallack, Murdoch, Bonham, Naudin, Marshall, and others of equal eminence, without any regard to pride of place, if possible, may be brought into requisition, and who cannot well be kept in the casts of the regular companies. On the second day, let the remaining metropolitan companies perform, and a morning concert take place; and, in the evening, let the whole wind up with the grand opera of *Maverick*—thus employing all the musical and dramatic talent of the city.

This is our programme for the festival, and we believe that its announcement would bring thirty thousand strangers into New York, not only to attend the festival, but to give our hotels, shops, and houses of business generally, one of those refreshing revivings which make life interesting and the heart merry. Other institutions beside the drama can unite in similar effective demonstrations, when any occasion calls for it, and there is no reason why the drama in this country should not have a chance to speak for itself, at least once in a century. As for the details of the matter, we have no apprehensions. We may one day perceive that five thousand tickets, with transferable certificate for each performance attached to them, can be issued and sold, and the price of tickets for particular performance may be made so moderate, as to add some thousands of dollars to the receipts. The questions are—Will any such sensible plan be adopted? Is there unanimity of good fellowship sufficient among the members of the profession, to fast for two days in their usual, natural rivalry, and even animosity? Will they come forward in behalf of themselves, and the advancement of the drama, while they, at the same time, contribute to the cause of one who, for twenty-five years, amid all the changes of popular taste, has kept on in an even course of liberality, industry, and faithfulness to his engagements, for which he is entitled to the respect of every citizen? To shall see?

**THE SUEZ AND WEBB CONTROVERSY.**—NEW YORK JOURNALISM.—We have not yet learned whether or not Mr. Webb has accepted Mr. Webb's proposition for a Board of Commissioners, to consist of two persons of respectability and unbiassed, to make a decision on the alleged profanity and villany of these two disputants respectively, and on the character of the New York press; but we hope Mr. Webb will accept the offer. We have already named one candidate for the appointment, who, we repeat, is in every way capable—James Gordon Bennett. Perhaps the parties interested in the controversy have heard of such a person—or perhaps, may know him.

At first, the current of public opinion ran very strongly against Webb for dragging his "dear and friend's daughter" into a very unwholesome position, but now the community have become used to it, and the remaining interest is confined to the ultimate eventually to be formed of the two characters engaged in the controversy, and of the true position of the New York press in this country and in Europe. The two editors consider themselves standing on the highest summit of two rival chairs in society. They associate with royal houses—the Capulets and Montagues of New York society. Webb confines his admiration to the Lagardes, Hones, Gilmans, and other families famous in the history of finance, banking and politics, in this country, and with Haynes and Juliaehch, in Austria, and Scarlett Lord Abinger, in England.

On the other hand, Lloyd boasts, in his reluctance, of his recognition by the brilliant society of Lady Hestington's *salon* in England, of his residence in European courts, and of his regular attendance at the fifteen thousand dollar entertainments in this city, given by the Hights, the Hones, and the other upper ten of the Fifth Avenue and thereabouts; and, also, of being the only person considered fit to promenade Broadway with Jenny Lind.

Now, the important charges involved in the present dispute have nothing less mild in them than seduction, fornication, swindling, robbery, and constructive murder; and the New York press is misjudged strangely with these crimes. It is quite impossible, therefore, that all these heinous acts should be investigated, notwithstanding Mr. Webb has fallen back several paces, and declares that he will answer for more charges, short of murder. Probably, he means by this to take all proper notice of any reference to the Clilly case. No matter, whatever Mr. Webb's decision may be, we trust that Mr. Willis will accept the last proposition of his opponent—that the Board of Commissioners will not forget our candidate—and that a decision will soon be made in New York journalism, for the satisfaction of the aristocracy of New York, and the refined circles of London and Vienna. The public pants for an investigation. Willis must not back out.